

Glendale Heights Police Department

GENERAL ORDER # 2480

SUBJECT: CBRNE Awareness and Response

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RELATED DOCUMENTS: Emergency Response Guidebook

.01 Purpose

This procedure describes the Department's response to a CBRNE incident.

.02 CALEA Standard

46.3.4

.03 Policy

Terrorists have the ability to cause massive damage and human suffering with little or no warning. Local first responders are always on the scene of such an incident moments after any attack. The health and safety of first responders is at risk due to contamination with chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and/or explosive substances, the possibility of further explosions or attacks, and the control of existing fires or hazards. The rescue and care of the sick and injured in a large scale incident must be balanced against the health and safety of responding emergency personnel. The Department recognizes the necessity of all members to have a basic awareness of CBRNE incidents, so that Department members can provide safe and effective assistance until the incident is resolved.

.04 Definitions

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive Incident (CBRNE)—A terrorist-initiated Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) incident involving one or more types of weapons: chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive.

Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD)—A weapon with the capability to inflict death and destruction indiscriminately and on a massive scale.

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.10 Awareness Level Guidelines for CBRNE Events

The Department utilizes the awareness level guidelines of the State of Illinois Hazardous Material Awareness Training and the Emergency Response Guidebook developed by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The hazard in a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) incident may be chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear, and/or explosive (CBRNE).

.15 Initial Warning

Despite increased awareness and training about CBRNE incidents, some incidents occur with little or no warning. The initial detection of a CBRNE terrorist attack will likely occur at the local level by either first responders or private entities. First responders should recognize that a CBRNE incident has occurred.

.20 Investigation and Containment of Hazards.

First responders will provide initial assessment or scene surveillance of a hazard caused by an act of WMD terrorism. First responders must be able to assess the situation and request assistance as quickly as possible. Proper authorities capable of dealing with and containing the hazard are to be alerted.

The Department's responsibilities to citizens in times of terrorist incidents are essentially the same as in its daily operations. Individual responsibilities of personnel will change in relation to the type of emergency, and Department personnel will be required to coordinate their operations with other responding agencies.

A CBRNE incident shall be considered a critical incident, and GO #2400 and the Village of Glendale Heights Emergency Operations Plan should take effect as soon as possible. An Incident Command post should be established outside the danger zone. The scene should be treated as a crime scene, and evidence should be preserved, in accordance with OP #3710.

.25 Personal Safety Considerations

Because the release of WMD may not be immediately apparent, first responders are in imminent danger themselves of becoming casualties before the actual identification of the crime can be made. The presence and identification of hazardous agents may not be immediately verifiable, especially in the case of biological and radiological agents. Incidents could escalate quickly from one scene to multiple locations. The presence of a secondary WMD device, specifically designed to kill first responders, must be assumed once it has been determined or suspected that the incident is actually a terrorist act.

When approaching a scene that may involve CBRNE the most critical consideration is the safety of oneself and other responders. First responders must be protected from the hazard prior to treating victims.

The following actions/measures are applicable to CBRNE incidents. The guidance is general in nature, not all-encompassing, and its applicability should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by responding officers:

- If outside, approach or evacuate upwind of the suspected area.
- If outside, don available protective mask and clothing immediately. Cover all exposed skin surfaces and protect the respiratory system as much as possible. Overcoats, boots, gloves, hats, self-contained breathing systems, and organic vapor respirators will help provide protection.
- If inside and the incident is inside, evacuate while minimizing passage through the contaminated area, keep windows and doors not used closed.
- If inside, and the incident is outside, stay inside. Turn off air conditioning, seal windows and doors with plastic tape.
- If radiological material is suspected, remember to minimize exposure by minimizing time around suspected site, maximizing distance from the site, and trying to place some shielding (e.g. buildings, vehicle, land feature such as a hill, etc.) between yourself and the site.
- Deploy CBRNE detection equipment, if available.
- When clear of the area or adequately protected, call for specialized assistance.
- Gather and report information.

.30 Chemical Weapons

Chemical agents are intended to kill, seriously injure, or incapacitate large numbers of people through physiological effects. A terrorist incident involving a chemical agent will demand immediate reaction from emergency responders-fire/paramedics, police, HazMat teams, and emergency room staff.

Chemical agents can enter the body by inhalation, absorption through the skin or mucous membranes, injection, or ingestion. A likely delivery method, based on previous incidents, is in the form of a gas or spray.

Most chemical attacks will be localized, and their effects will be evident within a few minutes.

- Persistent chemical agents remain in the affected area for hours, days, or weeks.
- Non-persistent chemical agents have high evaporation rates, are lighter than air, and disperse rapidly in well-ventilated areas.

The following are possible indicators of chemical agent use:

- Unusual occurrence of dead or dying wildlife
 - Lack of insects
 - Dead birds or foliage
- Unexplained Casualties
- Multiple victims
- Surge of similar 9-1-1 calls
- Nausea, disorientation, difficulty breathing, or convulsions
- Definite casualty patterns
- Unusual Liquids, Spray, or Vapor
 - Droplets, oily film, residue
 - Unexplained odor
 - Low-lying clouds/fog unrelated to weather
- Suspicious Devices or Packages
- Unusual metal debris
- Abandoned spray devices
- Unexplained munitions

.35 Biological Weapons

Detection of biological agents could occur days or weeks after exposed individuals have left the site of the release. The initial response therefore will shift to the public health facilities receiving unusual numbers of patients.

Recognition of a biological hazard can occur through methods including; identification through a credible threat, discovery of bioterrorism evidence (devices, agents, clandestine lab), diagnosis (identification of a disease caused by an agent identified as a possible bioterrorism agent), and detection (gathering and interpretation of public health surveillance data).

In the case of a biological incident, the onset of symptoms (incubation period) requires days to weeks depending on the level of exposure and the pathogen. Typically there will be no characteristic signatures. Because of the delayed onset of symptoms in a biological incident, the area affected may be greater due to the migration of infected individuals.

Indicators of Possible Biological Agent Use:

- Unusual occurrences of dead or dying animals.
- Unusual casualties.
- Unusual illness for a region or area
- Definite pattern inconsistent with natural disease
- Unusual liquids, spray, or vapor.
- Spray devices or suspicious devices or packages.

.40 Radiological/Nuclear

The difficulty of responding to a nuclear or radiological incident is compounded by the nature of the radiation itself. Unless confirmed by radiological detection equipment, the presence of a radiation hazard is difficult to ascertain. The onset of symptoms requires days to weeks and there typically will be no characteristic signatures. Radiological materials are not recognizable by the senses, and are colorless and odorless.

Indicators of a Possible Radiological/Nuclear Incident:

- Unusual numbers of sick or dying people or animals
- Unusual metal debris
- Heat emitting material
- Glowing material or particles (radioluminescence)
- A stated threat to deploy a nuclear or radiological device
- Radiation placards or symbols on containers

- The presence of nuclear or radiological equipment (spent fuel canisters or nuclear transport vehicles).

.45 Conventional Explosive Devices

Conventional explosive devices include but are not limited to bombs, incendiary devices, improvised explosive devices, and vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices. They are used to cause massive local destruction, and may also disperse chemical, biological, or radiological agents. Such attacks are usually sudden—historically less than 5% of actual or attempted bombings were preceded by a threat.

Conventional explosive devices are the terrorist weapon most likely to be encountered and are the easiest to obtain and use. They can be outfitted with timers or remote triggers, and activated by light, pressure, movement, or radio transmission. Devices can be employed covertly with little signature, and not readily detectable.

Members should be alert to the following:

- Secondary explosive devices may be targeted against first responders.
- Potential structural collapse of buildings.
- Asbestos exposure from collapsed buildings—use respiratory protection.
- A small explosion may be used to disperse chemical, biological, or radiological agents, or lure first responders to the scene, who are then subjected to a larger explosion.

.50 First Responder CBRNE Equipment

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for events involving chemical, biological, radiological/ nuclear, and explosive weapons will follow the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Division standards. PPE may include gloves, eye protection, gas masks and disposable clothing.

PPE is to be used for response to terrorist CBRNE attacks for which the PPE is rated. The PPE cannot protect from all possible CBRNE hazards.

.55 Evacuation, Protection, and Decontamination

Members should refer to the Emergency Response Guidebook and consult with responding HazMat teams for procedures regarding evacuation, protection, and decontamination.